

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 STR-04 AGR-05 /096 W

----- 060605

R 251631Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3931

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ETRD

SUBJ: CEAO/CEDEAO RELATIONSHIPS-COMMENTS OF CHEIK FALL,
CEAO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. CHEIK FALL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CEAO, DROPPED IN FOR
A CHAT JUNE 21, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF CEAO MEETINGS HERE
IN ABIDJAN. HE IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE FROM WHEN HE WAS
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SENEGAL'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHDC.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS ABOUT FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS

BETWEEN CEAO AND CEDEAO, HE STRESSED THAT CEAO WAS ALREADY OPERATIVE WHEREAS CEDEAO WOULD BE A LONG TIME GETTING STARTED. RATIFICATIONS OF THE CHARTER MUST BE FOLLOWED BY THE PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF PROTOCOLS OF AGREEMENT ON PARTICULAR TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. THESE, HE SAID, WILL TAKE MUCH LONGER. AS TO INCOMPATIBILITIES BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP IN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, HE SAID THE PROBLEM WOULD ARISE IN THE FUTURE OVER CUSTOMS DUTIES. CEDEAO HAS SAID ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO ELIMINATE TARIFFS AMONG THE MEMBERS OF CEDEAO, WHEREAS CEAO HAS A TARIFF EQUALIZATION FUND AMONG ITS SIX MEMBERS. THE FUND DOES NOT ENVISION ZERO TARIFFS. THUS PROBLEMS WILL ARISE WHEN, IN A PROPOSED GRADUAL REDUCTION OF CEDEAO TARIFFS, THE LEVEL OF CEAO TARIFFS IS INDICATED.

3. FALL ASKED WHY USAID HAD NOT RESPONDED TO HIS LETTERS REQUESTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CEAO. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THERE WAS AN AID REPRESENTATIVE IN OUAGADOUGOU. I SUGGESTED THAT AID HAD BEEN WAITING TO SEE HOW CEDEAO WOULD DEVELOP AND DID NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HINDER WIDER REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, BUT THAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO TALK TO THE CDO IN OUAGADOUGOU.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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